GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1254
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2017
Reforms in Education
Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to spend six per cent of its budget on education as recommended by the Kothari Commission Report and if so, the details thereof; and
(b) whether the Government is aware that there is need for extensive reforms in education sector and if so, the reasons for the delay in implementing the new Education Policy and the TSR Subramanian Committee Reports?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a): Yes Madam. The Government has been making efforts to reach the long pending goal of raising the investment in education to 6% of the national income as articulated in Kothari Commission Report and the National Policy on Education, 1986.
(b): The extant National Policy on Education (NPE) provides for a National System of Education which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. The Government is committed to provide equitable access to quality education to all sections of the society. Having nearly reached the goals of universalizing elementary education, and making substantial gains in expanding access to secondary and higher education, the focus is on improving the quality of education at all levels. Several initiatives are currently being undertaken to enhance the quality of education across the spectrum. In elementary education, the Sarva Shikha Abhiyan (SSA) programme harmonized with Right to Education (RTE) aims for improvements in school infrastructure and also improving learning outcomes. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), ICT in schools, Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education (CSSTE), Shaala Siddhi, Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan are implemented to improve the quality of secondary education. In higher education also, various schemes ,namely, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) and SWAYAM PRABHA, National Academic Depository, National Digital Library, campus connect programme, Uchhatar Avishkar Abhiyan, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan are being implemented to improve the quality of higher education. To promote objective assessment of performance annually, Government has launched the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in September 2015. A number of initiatives are also undertaken by UGC and AICTE for quality improvement in higher and technical education.
Presently, the Government is in the process of formulating a New Education Policy (NEP) to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry. The Government has recently constituted a 9-member Committee for preparation of the draft National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of eminent scientist Padma Vibhushan Dr. K. Kasturirangan, which is expected to submit its report by 31st December, 2017.
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